

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

In accordance with U.S. Patent and Trademark Office practice, proposed drawing changes as REPLACEMENT SHEETS are attached, wherein Applicant proposes to amend the drawings in the above-identified application as follows:

Please amend Figure 20 by including the legend -- BACKGROUND OF ART --.

Please amend Figure 21 by including the legend -- BACKGROUND OF ART --.

No new matter has been added. Approval is earnestly requested.

REMARKS

This is in full and timely response the Office Action mailed on September 14, 2010.

Claims 50-69 are currently pending in this application, with claims 50, 68 and 69 being independent.

No new matter has been added.

Reexamination in light of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Drawing objection

While not conceding the propriety of the objections to the drawings, and in order to advance the prosecution of the present application:

1. Claim 36 has been canceled.
2. Claim 48 has been canceled.
3. The drawings have been amended in the manner requested.

Withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Claim rejections

While not conceding the propriety of the claim rejections and in order to advance the prosecution of the present application, the rejected claims have been canceled.

Withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested.

Newly added claims

i. **Claims 50-66 and 68-69.**

A. Claims 51-66 are dependent upon claim 50.

Claim 50 is drawn to an apparatus for vibration isolation comprising:

an actuating device (4, 8) between a vibration-isolating table (3) and an intermediate plate (2), said actuating device (4, 8) having zero-power characteristics or negative spring characteristics;

a spring element (K_1) between said intermediate plate (2) and a base (1), said spring element (K_1) having specified positive spring characteristics;

a spring element (K_3) between said vibration-isolating table (3) and said base (1), said spring element (K_3) having positive spring characteristics,

wherein a damper (C_1) is between said intermediate plate (2) and said base (1), a damper (C_3) being between said vibration-isolating table (3) and said base (1).

B. Claim 68 is an independent claim.

Claim 68 is drawn to a method for vibration isolation comprising:

installing an actuating device (4, 8) between a vibration-isolating table (3) and an intermediate plate (2), said actuating device (4, 8) having zero-power characteristics or negative spring characteristics;

installing a spring element (K_1) between said intermediate plate (2) and a base (1), said spring element (K_1) having specified positive spring characteristics;

installing a spring element (K_3) between said vibration-isolating table (3) and said base (1), said spring element (K_3) having positive spring characteristics,

wherein a damper (C_1) is between said intermediate plate (2) and said base (1), a damper (C_3) being between said vibration-isolating table (3) and said base (1).

C. Claim 69 is an independent claim.

Claim 69 is drawn to a method for vibration isolation comprising:

isolating vibration between a vibration-isolating table (3) and an intermediate plate (2), an actuating device (4, 8) having zero-power characteristics or negative spring characteristics to isolate said vibration between said vibration-isolating table (3) and said intermediate plate (2);

isolating vibration from a base (1) to said intermediate plate (2), a spring element (K_1) having specified positive spring characteristics to isolate said vibration from said base (1) to said intermediate plate (2);

isolating vibration from said base (1) to said vibration-isolating table (3), a spring element (K_3) having positive spring characteristics to isolate said vibration from said base (1) to said vibration-isolating table (3);

wherein a damper (C_1) is between said intermediate plate (2) and said base (1), a damper (C_3) being between said vibration-isolating table (3) and said base (1).

D. Cited prior art.

The Office Action cites U.S. Patent No. 6,354,576 (Jacobs), European Patent Application Publication No. EP 0 391 066 (EP'066), U.S. Patent No. 6,788,386 (Cox), and Japanese Patent Application Publication No. 2002-081498 (JP'498).

Either individually or as a whole, these references *fail* to disclose, teach, or suggest an apparatus or method *wherein a damper (C₁) is between said intermediate plate (2) and said base (1), a damper (C₃) being between said vibration-isolating table (3) and said base (1)*.

Allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

ii. Claim 67.**A. Claim is dependent upon claim 50.**

Claim 67 is drawn to the apparatus for vibration isolation according to claim 50, wherein a portion of said vibration-isolating table (3) is between said actuating device (4, 8) and said spring element (K₃), a portion of said intermediate plate (2) being between a segment of said vibration-isolating table (3) and said actuating device (4, 8).

Claim 67 is related to Figure 2 of the present application.

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) practice and procedures dictate that this linking claim must be examined with, and thus are considered part of, the invention elected.

Specifically, M.P.E.P. §809 provides that when all claims directed to the elected invention are allowable, should any linking claim be allowable, the restriction requirement between the linked inventions must be withdrawn.

Upon the allowance of the claim that claim 67 depends therefrom, rejoinder and allowance of claim 67 is respectfully requested. M.P.E.P. §809.

Official Notice

There is no concession as to the veracity of Official Notice, if taken in any Office Action. An affidavit or document should be provided in support of any Official Notice taken. 37 C.F.R. §1.104(d)(2), M.P.E.P. §2144.03. See also, *Ex parte Natale*, 11 USPQ2d 1222, 1227-1228 (Bd. Pat. App. & Int. 1989)(failure to provide any objective evidence to support the challenged use of Official Notice constitutes clear and reversible error).

Extensions of time

Please treat any concurrent or future reply, requiring a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, as incorporating a petition for extension of time for the appropriate length of time.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge all required fees, fees under 37 C.F.R. §1.17, or all required extension of time fees.

Fees-general authorization

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in fees filed, asserted to be filed, or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in this application by this firm).

If any fee is required or any overpayment made, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the fee or credit the overpayment to Deposit Account # 18-0013.

Conclusion

This response is believed to be a complete response to the Office Action.

Applicants reserve the right to set forth further arguments supporting the patentability of their claims, including the separate patentability of the dependent claims not explicitly addressed herein, in future papers.

For the foregoing reasons, all the claims now pending in the present application are allowable, and the present application is in condition for allowance.

Accordingly, favorable reexamination and reconsideration of the application in light of the remarks is courteously solicited.

If the Examiner has any comments or suggestions that could place this application in even better form, the Examiner is requested to telephone Brian K. Dutton, Reg. No. 47,255, at 202-955-8753.

Dated: February 16, 2011

Respectfully submitted,

By _____
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Attachments